

REMARKS

Applicants have now considered the outstanding official action. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,829,159 (Hodgins).

Claims 4-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 4 was previously amended to be placed in independent form, claim 4 having been stated to be allowable except as to its dependency. Dependent claims 5-8 are also stated to be allowable except as to their dependencies. Claims 5-8 are multiple dependent claims. Claims 5-8 have been amended to depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 4. Accordingly, applicants submit that claims 4-8 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has been amended to positively claim the beam assembly in combination with a tarpaulin handling machine. Claims 1-3 have been stated to be examined on the beam assembly alone and no patentable weight was given to the claim limitations regarding the tarpaulin handling machine. Hodgins was thus applied. Hodgins, however, does not teach a beam assembly in combination with a tarpaulin

5633/USSN 10/067,821
Group Art Unit 3635

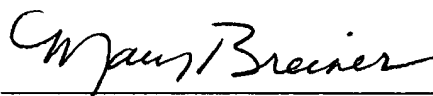
handling machine as set forth in applicants' earlier amendment. Hodgins teaches a dryer section of a paper-making machine.

Accordingly, applicants submit that Hodgins does not teach each and every element of the claimed invention as necessary to anticipate within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 102. Withdrawal of the § 102 rejection of claims 1-3 is therefore respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and formal allowance of the claims is respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,

LARS-INGVAR NORDSTRÖM ET AL

By 

Mary J. Breiner, Attorney
Registration No. 33,161
BREINER & BREINER, L.L.C.
115 North Henry Street
P.O. Box 19290
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-0290

Telephone: (703) 684-6885